

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Farr: Anti-Privatization Measure Hurts Connecticut's Most Vulnerable**



A measure that will severely restrict the state's ability to award contracts to non-profit organizations and other private entities to provide services similar to or in lieu of those performed by state employees will hurt many of Connecticut's most vulnerable people, state Representative Bob Farr, R-19<sup>th</sup> District, said today.

The measure, an amendment to a budget implementation bill (House Bill 7502) under consideration by the state House of Representatives late Tuesday night, was approved 83 – 49 on a party-line vote, with most Democrats supporting the bill and most Republicans opposed.

“State employee union leaders who are trying to increase the number of people employed by the State of Connecticut and expand the size of their bargaining units provided the language for this bill and made sure it was supported by most of the General Assembly's Democrat legislators,” Representative Farr said. “While they succeeded in gaining overwhelming support for their amendment from the majority Democrats, it remains to be seen whether this measure will enable them to significantly expand their membership.”

“If this bill becomes law, it will significantly increase the cost of providing services to the mentally retarded, to persons in need of substance abuse treatment; and to prisoners seeking to re-enter society through half-way houses,” Representative Farr said. “Placing significant restrictions on the state's ability to award contracts to non-profit organizations at a time when tax dollars are scarce will prevent services for society's most vulnerable individuals from being expanded and will do little or nothing to achieve state employee union leaders' goal of increasing the number of people in state service.”

The legislation prohibits the state from awarding contracts to provide services valued at \$500,000 or more to non-profit organizations or other private entities until June 30, 2007, unless the contract constitutes an ‘emergency procurement’ under state law.